

VZCZCXRO5614  
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHVB #1231/01 2841046  
ZNY CCCCC ZZB  
O 111046Z OCT 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6771  
RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEH2L/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 001231

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE  
NSC FOR BRAUN

EO 12958 DECL: 10/11/2016  
TAGS PREL, PGOV, HR, EUN, NATO  
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER - PM SANADER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT  
BUSH

Classified By: Ambassador Robert A. Bradtke for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

A "BALKANS" SUCCESS STORY

¶1. (C) Fifteen years after the death of Yugoslavia and eleven years after a horrible civil war, Croatia is poised to become that rarity ) a Balkan state with a functioning government and a leader who has the confidence of his people. Sanader's agenda is to move forward with the European Union and to seek support from the United States for his country's entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He is also seeking to improve relations with Russia and to develop a more diversified economy.

¶2. (C) Prime Minister Sanader has made the rounds of all the major European capitals, but he knows that Washington is the capital that really counts. He is seeking to build a strong relationship with the United States, particularly with President George W. Bush, who has been a strong advocate for NATO enlargement. He is also seeking to improve relations with Russia and to develop a more diversified economy.

¶3. (C) Apart from this symbolism, Sanader will be seeking the President's support for strong NATO enlargement language at November's Riga Summit. He is also seeking to improve relations with Russia and to develop a more diversified economy.

¶4. (C) For the most part, Sanader has already paid up front for this meeting over the course of his nearly three years in power as head of a coalition government. He has made significant progress in areas such as defense reform, economic development, and political stability.

¶5. (C) In the military sphere, Sanader's government has made considerable progress on a major defense reform effort that will fully professionalize the armed forces. It has also made significant strides in areas such as defense reform, economic development, and political stability.

¶6. (C) We can usefully push Sanader to do more to prepare Croatia for NATO accession; Sanader himself should be more active in generating public support for the alliance. This will help to strengthen the alliance and to ensure its continued relevance in the region.

¶7. (C) Croatia is a small country. Its contribution to regional and global security will always be modest, its engagement capacity limited, it